

be called *Anas rubripes* but if there be two then the Red-legged form is *Anas rubripes rubripes* and the dusky-legged form *A. rubripes tristis*. The systematic treatment of the species constitutes Part I.

Part II of the report comprises histories of the species which are extinct or extirpated in Massachusetts; the Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Eskimo Curlew, Passenger Pigeon, Trumpeter Swan, Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane, and Wild Turkey.

Part III is an admirable discussion of the conservation of Game Birds in which every element receives careful consideration.

The problem is a serious one and one that must be considered promptly and exhaustively in every state in the Union, if we are to save many of our birds from the fate which has overtaken those mentioned above. Mr. Forbush suggests seventeen steps, all or most of which must be taken if we expect to increase the supply of game birds. These include the following: establishment of (1) bird reservations, (2) systems of federal control of migrating birds, and (3) systems of town wardens in addition to state wardens; prohibiting of (1) sale and export of game, (2) sale and use of ultra-destructive firearms, (3) shooting from boats; registration of native hunters and raising of fees for alien hunters, so as to be practically prohibitive; limiting of each day's bag; reducing the number of stray dogs and cats; checking forest fires; making the open seasons as nearly uniform as possible; encouraging the propagation and sale of such game as can be raised on game farms; and more important than all the establishment of a better attitude among the public at large toward the game laws. If the laws are wilfully disregarded as is frequently the case at present all hope for improved conditions might as well be abandoned. In this very field, more perhaps than in any other, Mr. Forbush's work will do an enormous good.—W. S.

**Miller on the Classification of Kingfishers.**<sup>1</sup>—Work of the kind that Mr. Miller has here presented is most welcome. Whether the multitude of bird genera that have been proposed of late years is to stand or fall there can be no question but that we need light upon both internal and external characters of the species to guide us in our final judgment, and this so far as the Kingfishers are concerned is provided in the paper before us. The treatise is divided into two parts. I. The Subfamilies of Alcedinidæ and II. The Genera of Cerylinæ. In the former Mr. Miller reaches the conclusion that three subfamilies should be recognized: *Cerylinæ*, *Alcedininæ* and *Daceloninæ*, the last two being more closely related to each other than is either to the *Cerylinæ*. *Ceyx*, *Ceycopsis*, *Ispidinæ* and *Myioceyx* he regards as members of the *Alcedininæ* rather than of the *Daceloninæ* where Sharpe placed them. In the association of these four genera with the other short tailed genera *Alcedo*, *Corythornis* and *Alcyone*, and the ex-

<sup>1</sup> A Revision of the Classification of the Kingfishers. By W. DeW. Miller. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. XXXI, pp. 239-311. New York, September 12, 1912.

clusion of *Ceryle* we think that Mr. Miller is right and that the three subfamilies recognized represent natural phylogenetic groups.

The latter half of the paper deals with the subdivision of the old genus *Ceryle* and voluminous data are presented to show the necessity for recognizing *Megaceryle* Kaup for the crested blue-gray species, and *Chloroceryle* Kaup for the neotropical bronze-green forms, as distinct from the black and white Afro-Indian birds which constitute true *Ceryle*. Here again Mr. Miller's action appears to be fully justified in so much as these groups are quite as distinct as the other genera of Kingfishers,—certainly more so than some of them, but it is unfortunate that the material was not available for a thorough investigation of the status of the genera in the other two subfamilies some of which we think rest upon very slight characters. Incidentally Mr. Miller calls attention to the necessity, on grounds of priority, of substituting *Choucalcyon* Lesson 1831 for *Sauromarptis* Cab & Heine, and *Lacedo* Reichenbach 1851 for *Carcineutes* Cab. & Heine.—W. S.

**Reed's 'Birds of Eastern North America.'**<sup>1</sup>—This volume of 456 pages is, as we are told in the preface, 'but an extension of, an enlargement upon and a combining of' the 'Bird Guides for Land and Water Birds' by the same author. We do not think however that the additions in anyway compensate for what has been lost. The 'Bird Guides' held a place of their own in our ornithological literature as they were truly pocket guides whereas the present book, though just as useful as a work of reference, is no longer a pocket edition being both too large and too heavy. As a reference book too it comes directly into competition with numerous other works of similar scope, in some of which the additional information presented here is treated much more satisfactorily.

A curious feature is the use of the bird's name in the plural in almost every instance, the significance of which is not clear. 'Parula Warblers' obviously is intended to cover the two eastern races, while 'Cape May Warblers' must refer merely to several individuals of the species, but the statement that 'Sennett's White-tailed Hawks are southern species' leaves us in doubt as to just what idea the author desires to convey. There is but one form of Sennett's White-tailed Hawk and even that is not a species but a subspecies of *Buteo albicaudatus*! The attempt to explain the significance of binomials and trinomials on page ix moreover is not very happy.

While the colored pictures which appear on every page and which formed the distinctive feature of the 'Bird Guides' will still aid many students in identifying the birds they see, we trust that the handy smaller edition will not be withdrawn.—W. S.

---

<sup>1</sup> Birds of Eastern North American. By Chester A. Reed. S. B. With colored Illustrations of every Species common to the United States and Canada from the Atlantic Coast to the Rockies. Garden City, New York, Doubleday, Page & Company. 1912.